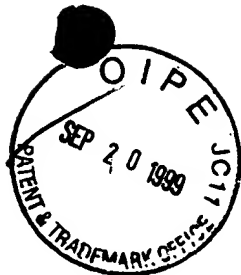


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Handwritten signature and date: 9/28/99

PATENT
CL85012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:
Chiang et al.

Group Art Unit: 1634 ⁶⁵³

Serial No. 09/031,087

Examiner: J. Tung

Filed: February 26, 1998

For: Fluorescence Energy Transfer by
Competitive Hybridization

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SEP 22 1999

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 19, 1999, Applicants have the following comments. A Request for a Three-Month Extension of time and a check for \$870.00 are enclosed herewith, thereby extending the date for a response to the Office Action until September 20, 1999. Also enclosed is a Revocation of Power of Attorney and a Power of Attorney appointing the named Attorneys as representatives of the Applicants and a Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) with a copy of an Assignment of Rights from the previous Assignee, SmithKline Beecham Corporation, to Quest Diagnostics Incorporated, and a Patent Assignment Cover Sheet, attached thereto, and evidencing ownership of the instant application, among others, by Quest Diagnostics Incorporated. Further enclosed are a Sequence Listing and a computer readable form of same and a copy of the Notice to Comply.